

TESTIMONY OF
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Before the Energy & Technology Committee
February 26, 2019

RE: S.B. No. 875, AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PORTFOLIO

H.B. No. 7156, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE WIND

My name is Sam Eaton, and I am the Director of Business Development for Eversource Energy. I am offering testimony on the above-listed bills that have been raised for public hearing.

Both S.B. No. 875 and H.B. No. 875 propose to authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") to conduct requests for proposals for offshore wind development opportunities.

Eversource appreciates the leadership of Governor Lamont and the Connecticut legislature to take a critical step in achieving Connecticut's clean energy economy. We fully support the State's efforts to increase its offshore wind procurement authority. Offshore wind holds the promise to provide significant quantities of affordable, carbon-free energy while supporting hundreds of new jobs in Connecticut and throughout the Northeast.

Eversource, with our partner, Orsted, are the leading developer of offshore wind in Northeast with more than 4,000 MWs of development potential. We are the sponsors of the Revolution Wind project that was fortunate to be awarded 300 MW of competitively bid contracts by Connecticut in 2018. Through Revolution Wind we have committed to invest tens of millions in Connecticut, and New London, specifically. These facilities will be used to support the successful construction of the Revolution Wind project and represents just the beginning of what Eversource and Orsted see as the potential for New London and Connecticut.

Expanding Connecticut's commitment to offshore wind is not only an affordable means of preparing for an evolving energy industry where many legacy units face the prospect of retirement, it is also a necessary step to keep pace with the significant new offshore wind procurement targets in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, which have or are in the process of adopting procurement targets that exceed 15,000 MWs in the aggregate. A target of at least 1,000 is necessary to ensure a sizable portion of the new jobs created by this rapidly growing industry are located here in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time this afternoon. We look forward to the opportunities created by these bills to meet Connecticut's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals